

1 15A NCAC 02B .0305 is proposed for amendment as follows:

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3 **15A NCAC 02B .0305 WATAUGA RIVER BASIN**

4 (a) Classifications assigned to the waters within the Watauga River Basin are set forth in the Watauga River Basin
5 Classification Schedule, which may be inspected at the following places:

6 (1) the Internet at [https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-planning/classification-](https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-planning/classification-standards/river-basin-classification)
7 [standards/river-basin-classification](https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-planning/classification-standards/river-basin-classification) and

8 (2) the following offices of the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality:

9 (A) Asheville Regional Office

10 2090 US Highway 70

11 Swannanoa, North Carolina;

12 (B) Winston-Salem Regional Office

13 450 West Hanes Mill Road

14 Winston-Salem, North Carolina; and

15 (C) Division of Water Resources

16 Central Office

17 512 North Salisbury Street

18 Raleigh, North Carolina.

19 (b) Unnamed streams entering the State of Tennessee are classified "C."

20 (c) The Watauga River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective:

21 (1) August 12, 1979;

22 (2) February 1, 1986;

23 (3) October 1, 1987;

24 (4) August 1, 1989;

25 (5) August 1, 1990;

26 (6) December 1, 1990;

27 (7) April 1, 1992;

28 (8) August 3, 1992;

29 (9) February 1, 1993;

30 (10) April 1, 1994;

31 (11) August 1, 1998;

32 (12) November 1, ~~2007-2007~~; and

33 (13) September 1, 2023.

34 (d) The Watauga River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective July 1, 1989 as follows:

35 (1) Dutch Creek (Index No. 8-11) was reclassified from Class C-trout to Class B-trout.

36 (2) Pond Creek (Index No. 8-20-2) from water supply intake (located just above Tamarack Road) to
37 Beech Creek and all tributary waters were reclassified from Class WS-III to C.

1 (e) The Watauga River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective December 1, 1990 with the
2 reclassification of the Watauga River from the US Highway 321 bridge to the North Carolina/Tennessee state line
3 from Class C to Class B.

4 (f) The Watauga River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective April 1, 1992 with the reclassification
5 of Pond Creek from Classes WS-III and C to Classes WS-III Trout and C Trout.

6 (g) The Watauga River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective August 3, 1992 with the reclassification
7 of all water supply waters (waters with a primary classification of WS-I, WS-II or WS-III). These waters were
8 reclassified to WS-I, WS-II, WS-III, WS-IV or WS-V as defined in the revised water supply protection rules (15A
9 NCAC 2B .0100, .0200 and .0300), which became effective on August 3, 1992. In some cases, streams with primary
10 classifications other than WS were reclassified to a WS classification due to their proximity and linkage to water
11 supply waters. In other cases, waters were reclassified from a WS classification to an alternate appropriate primary
12 classification after being identified as downstream of a water supply intake or identified as not being used for water
13 supply purposes.

14 (h) The Watauga River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective February 1, 1993 with the
15 reclassification of Boone Fork (Index No. 8-7) and all tributary waters from Classes C Tr HQW and C HQW to Classes
16 C Tr ORW and C ORW.

17 (i) The Watauga River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective April 1, 1994 with the reclassification
18 of the Elk River from Peavine Branch to the North Carolina/Tennessee state line [Index No. 8-22-(3)] from Class C
19 Tr to Class B Tr.

20 (j) The Watauga River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective August 1, 1998 with the reclassification
21 of East Fork Pond Creek from its source to the backwater of Santis Lake, [Index No. 8-20-2-1.5] from Class WS-II
22 Tr to Class WS-III Tr; the reclassification of West Fork Pond Creek (Santis Lake) [Index No. 8-20-2-1-(2)] from the
23 backwaters of Santis Lake to Pond Creek from WS-II Tr CA to WS-III Tr CA; and the reclassification of the
24 connecting stream of Lake Coffey [Index No. 8-20-2-2] from the dam at Lake Coffey to Pond Creek from WS-II Tr
25 CA to C Tr.

26 (k) The Watauga River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective November 1, 2007 with the
27 reclassification of the Beech Creek Bog near Beech Creek [Index No. 8-20] to Class WL UWL. The North Carolina
28 Division of Water Resources maintains a Geographic Information Systems data layer of the UWL.

29 (l) The Watauga River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective November 1, 2023 with the
30 reclassification of the following waterbodies:

31 (1) Green Ridge Branch (Index No. 8-3) and all tributary waters from source to Watauga River
32 from Class C to Class C ORW.

33 (2) Harrison Branch (Index No. 8-10-1) and all tributary waters from source to Laurel Fork
34 from Class C to Class C ORW.

35 (3) The portion of Upper Laurel Fork (Index No. 8-10-3) and all tributary waters from source to
36 SR 103 from Class C to Class C ORW.

37 (4) The portion of Dutch Creek [Index No. 8-12-(0.5)] and all tributary waters from source to

- 1 Pigeonroost Creek from Class B Tr to Class B Tr ORW.
- 2 (5) Craborchard Creek (Index No. 8-12-3) and all tributary waters from source to Dutch Creek
- 3 from Class C Tr to Class C Tr HQW.
- 4 (6) The portion of South Fork Ellison Branch (Index No. 8-15-1-2) and all tributary waters from
- 5 Source to U.S. 421 from Class C to Class C ORW.
- 6 (7) Laurel Creek (Index No 8-17) and all tributary waters from source to Watauga River from Class
- 7 C Tr to Class C Tr ORW, including Worley Creek (Index No. 8-17-1) from source to Laurel
- 8 Creek from Class C Tr to Class C Tr ORW and Spice Branch (Creek) (Index No 8-17-2) from
- 9 source to Laurel Creek from Class C to Class C ORW.
- 10 (8) The portion of Little Beaverdam Creek (Index No. 8-19-2) and all tributary waters from
- 11 source to Fork Branch from Class C Tr to Class C Tr HQW, including Jones Branch (Index
- 12 No. 8-19-2-1) from source to Little Beaverdam Creek from Class C to Class C HQW.
- 13 (9) West Fork Rube Creek (Index No. 8-19-3-2) and all tributary waters from source to Rube
- 14 Creek from Class C to Class C HQW.
- 15 (10) The portion of Stone Mountain Branch (Index No. 8-21) and all tributary waters from source
- 16 to an unnamed tributary located approximately 350 feet southwest of the intersection of SR
- 17 1206 and SR 1201 from Class C to Class C HQW.
- 18 (11) Shawneehaw Creek (Index No. 8-22-7) and all tributary waters from source to Mill Pond, Elk
- 19 River from Class C Tr to Class C Tr ORW.

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21 *History Note: Authority G.S. 143-214.1; 143-215.1; 143-215.3(a)(1);*

22 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*

23 *Amended Eff. November 1, 2007; August 1, 1998; April 1, 1994; February 1, 1993; August 3, 1992;*

24 *April 1, 1992;*

25 *Readopted Eff. November 1, ~~2019-2019~~;*

26 *Amended Eff. September 1, 2023.*

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